

CPC Committee Minutes 2-18-2014

Rockport Police Station 7:00 PM

Members Present: Ruth George (Chair), Paul Sena, Maryann Lash, Phil Crotty, Julie McMahon, Bethany Brosnan, Mel Michaels, Stephen DeMarco

Not Present: Ed Hand

Ruth George opens meeting with committee introductions.

Application Reviews:

Action, Inc. Tenant Based Rental/Mortgage Assistance Program (TBRMA) Stalla Mae Seamans and Maggie Howard, Dir. of client services for Action present. Maryanne asks if numbers of people using the funding are going up or down. Stella Mae responds the numbers are slightly down this past year. Phil Crotty comments on their low 4% admin. cost. Mel asks if they could make do with less money. Stella Mae responds that she will always stretch out whatever funds she gets.

Unitarian Universalist Church, Coley Bryan, Chair of buildings and grounds for UU Society and Mary Francis present. Funding requested for preservation of church steeple. Steeple was added in 1867. Internal structure is sound. Exterior is rotting, losing roof flashing, requires new roof, paint, 2 new front windows and support of bell cradle. They were advised in 2011 that exterior needed to be done. They will be using endowment and doing fundraising as well. Maryann Lash cites benefits to town of hosting many community events and being a visual focal point of the historic Rockport skyline. Stephen DeMarco asks if they will be following Sec. of Interior standards, if it will be commercially bid and how much of original structure will be preserved. Mel Michaels wants a better breakdown of costs.

DPW Front Beach Project. Joe Parisi, DPW Dir. present. Joe Parisi explains that he wants to make the entrance area to Front beach more visually appealing and more compliant with ADA standards. He has money from town meeting to replace benches and trash cans and is looking for CPC funds to redo the cement walkways, etc. Stephen DeMarco asks why it wouldn't fall under capital improvement. Julie McMahon asks if there was going to be a forum for citizens to have input into the new design.

Rockport Granite Pier Extension. Steve Ouelette presenting. Members of Harbor Advisory Committee present. Mr. Ouelette presents some of the history and local interest in extending Granite Pier with a new 600' seawall that would connect to Gull Island. This idea was first proposed by the ACOE in a 1965 document. The HAC is requesting funds to carry out a preliminary feasibility study. Phil Crotty notes for record that he is a member of the Harbor Advisory Committee and wrote most of the proposal. Mel Michaels suggests that the CPC could appropriate administrative funds for the project without going to town meeting. Julie McMahon asks if the

committee had thought of asking private property owners who would benefit from the project to share costs for the study. She also suggests the costs of mitigation to meet modern permitting requirements for the project could be prohibitive. Mel Michaels says that in 2010 the DPW estimated the project would cost more than \$5 million. Paul Sena thinks the benefits of the project could be worth the costs and supports looking into it. Larry Stepenuck, 16B Bearskin Neck and member of the HAC objects to the proposal and objects to Mr. Ouelette who is not a current HAC member being asked to present it. Mr. Stepenuck submits a letter opposing the proposal to the CPC. Billy Lee, longtime commercial boat owner, supports looking into the proposal for the good of the town and commercial fishermen in particular. Bob Smith, Marmion Way and longtime sailor in town, supports moving forward with feasibility.

Minutes: Maryann Lash makes motion to approve January minutes. Phil Crotty seconds motion. Unanimous vote with Paul Sena, Stephen DeMarco and Julie McMzhon who were not present abstaining.

Coalition dues: \$1,750, \$200 more than 2013. Ruth George to ask Stuart about increase. Stephen DeMarco makes motion to approve. Julie McMahon seconds motion. Vote passes with 7 in favor and 1 opposed.

Rules for Processing of Invoices: Phil Crotty moves to accept Rules for Processing of Invoices (draft 11-11-13) as drafted by Mel Michaels. Stephen DeMarco seconds motion. Stephen DeMarco questions why the town can't enter into a grant agreement with itself. He suggests the rules related to formal bids and grant agreements would be more appropriate in the application and suggests making them items 11 and 12 in application. After some more discussion, Stephen DeMarco moves to table previous motion. Motion seconded. Motion tabled with unanimous approval.

Treasurer's Report: Mel Michael presents updated report. 2014 funds requested are \$1,663,830. Funds available are \$1,441,830.

Mel Michaels presents a proposal to the CPC to accept an after-the-deadline application for 2014 funds to purchase parcel(s) of land that may be available that he believes would be appropriate for recreation, open space and construction of affordable housing. Members discuss whether it would be appropriate to accept. No action taken at this time.

Rockport Garden Club: Ruth George received an e-mail from Laura Hallowell of the Garden Club indicating that they did not end up using the \$2,000 of CPC funds given them in 2013 for knotweed eradication.

Straitsmouth Island update: The Thacher Island Committee has requested to utilize CPC funds given to them for preservation of the Straitsmouth Island lighthouse for preservation of the Straitsmouth Island keepers' house or oil house instead. They

have submitted a new 2014 application for the funds, but an article will be place on the spring town meeting warrant to redirect the funds for that purpose. There will also be an article for the town to accept the terms of a 30-year renewable lease for the keepers' house and oil house from Mass. Audubon Society.

Timeline: Ruth George lays out timeline for the presentation and approval of this year's applications.

Housekeeping business: Invoices are passed around for signatures.

New business: Phil Crotty drafted a press release to the local newspapers regarding the 2014 projects requesting funding.

Mel Michaels moves to adjourn meeting. Bethany Brosnan seconds motion.
Unanimous vote to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned at 9:35 PM.